

In re Patent Application of:
BRIEF ET AL
Serial No. 10/816,323
Filed: 04/01/2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A module for securely retaining therein a pair of multi fiber optic MT ferrules comprising:

a base member having a ferrule retention cavity that is configured to retain a pair of fiber optic MT ferrules and an associated pin clamp assembly therefor;

a cover that is configured to engage be placed upon and slide along a top surface of the base member in such a manner that the two MT ferrules are firmly held in their intended face-to-face abutting condition as captured between the base member and the cover; and

a bias compression spring that is captured between the cover and the base member in a manner that facilitates removal of the cover to gain access to the two MT ferrules housed thereby; and wherein

said base member is configured as a generally rectangular shaped member having a planar bottom surface and pair of planar sidewalls that form an MT ferrule retention cavity therebetween, and includes a pair of cover retention elements that extend above the side walls on opposite sides of the ferrule retention cavity and are configured to allow said cover to be placed upon and slide along said top surface of said base member, so that said cover may be retained between said cover retention elements and said top surface of said base member.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) The module according to claim [2]1, wherein said cover has a generally planar surface with recesses in the sides thereof that allow passage thereby of said rails of said base member, so that the base member and the cover may be readily slidably joined together.

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4. (currently amended) The module according to claim 3, wherein said cover further includes a pair of indentations which provide side clearance for said cover past the ~~rails~~ cover retention elements of said base member when said cover is placed upon and slides along the top surfaces of sidewalls of the base member.

5. (original) The module according to claim 3, wherein said cover further includes a foot member that abuts against said compression spring and is sized to enter a slot in an endwall of said base member, wherein said slot has a lip that serves as a closure stop for the foot member of said cover.

6. (original) The module according to claim 5, wherein said foot member has a generally triangular shaped slot that is sized to accommodate ease of entry and removal of a section of fiber ribbon cable therethrough, and wherein a bottom region of said foot member has a bevelled surface that allows the foot member to ride over the lip adjacent to the end wall of the base member which serves as a closure stop for the endwall of the cover.

7. (original) A method of securely retaining a pair of fiber optic MT ferrules in mutually abutting relationship, while protecting said ferrules from being impacted by foreign matter comprising the steps of:

(a) providing

1- a base member having a ferrule retention cavity that is configured to retain a pair of fiber optic MT ferrules and an associated pin clamp assembly therefor,

2- a cover that is configured to engage the base in such a manner that the two MT ferrules are firmly held in their intended face-to-face abutting condition as captured between the base and the cover, and

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3- a bias compression spring that is adapted to be captured between the cover and the base in a manner that facilitates removal of the cover to gain access to the two MT ferrules housed thereby.

(b) joining said MT ferrules together using an alignment pin assembly therefor;

(c) placing said MT ferrules as joined together in step (b) into the ferrule retention cavity of the base member;

(d) placing said bias compression spring over the fiber ribbon cable feeding the end of the MT ferrules wherein the alignment pin assembly is located;

(e) feeding said fiber ribbon cable through a slot in a foot member of said cover;

(f) locating said cover above the base member such that sidewall recesses thereof are aligned with rails of the base member;

(g) lowering said cover onto top surfaces of the base member, and causing said compression spring to be captured between the foot member and the alignment pin assembly; and

(h) sliding said cover along the top surface of the base member, so that said foot member rides up and over a lip in the base member and then 'snap'-locks the lid in position, once the bottom of the foot member has cleared the lip.

8. (currently amended) A module for securely retaining therein a pair of multi fiber optic MT ferrules comprising:

a generally rectangular base member having a ferrule retention cavity that is configured to retain a pair of mutually face-to face abutting fiber optic MT ferrules; and

a cover that is configured to be placed upon and slide along a top surface of~~engage~~ the base member in such a manner that the two MT ferrules are firmly held in their intended face-to-face abutting condition as captured between the base member and the cover, and such that said cover is snap-fit locked onto said base

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member, and wherein

said base member is configured as a generally rectangular shaped member having a planar bottom surface and a pair of planar side walls that form an MT ferrule retention cavity therebetween, and includes a pair of cover retention elements that extend above the side walls on opposite sides of the ferrule retention cavity and are configured to allow said cover to be placed upon and slide along said top surface of said base member, so that said cover may be retained between said cover retention elements and said top surface of said base member.

9. (currently amended) The module according to claim 8, further comprising a bias compression spring that is captured between the cover and the base member in a manner that facilitates removal of the cover to gain access to the two MT ferrules retained thereby.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

11. (currently amended) The module according to claim [10]9, wherein said cover has a generally planar surface with recesses in the sides thereof that allow passage thereby of said rails of said base member, so that the base member and the cover may be readily slidably joined together.

12. (currently amended) The module according to claim 11, wherein said cover further includes a pair of indentations which provide side clearance for said cover past the ~~rails~~cover retention elements of said base member when said cover is placed upon and slides along the top surfaces of sidewalls of the base member.

13. (original) The module according to claim 11, wherein said cover further includes a foot member that abuts against said

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compression spring and is sized to enter a slot in an endwall of said base member, wherein said slot has a lip that serves as a closure stop for the foot member of said cover.

14. (original) The module according to claim 13, wherein said foot member has a generally triangular shaped slot that is sized to accommodate ease of entry and removal of a section of fiber ribbon cable therethrough, and wherein a bottom region of said foot member has a bevelled surface that allows the foot member to ride over the lip adjacent to the end wall of the base member which serves as a closure stop for the endwall of the cover.

15. (new) The module according to claim 1, wherein said cover retention elements comprise respective generally inverted L-shaped rails.

16. (new) The module according to claim 8, wherein said cover retention elements comprise respective generally inverted L-shaped rails.